

Message Text

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70

ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 IO-14 AF-10 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14

RSC-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15

AID-20 CEQ-02 COA-02 COME-00 EB-11 EPA-04 NSF-04

SCI-06 FEA-02 ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20 DOTE-00 FMC-04

INT-08 JUSE-00 OMB-01 OIC-04 DRC-01 CIEP-03 CEA-02

TRSE-00 /297 W

----- 053012

R 311408Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5049

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 7212

FROM US DEL LOS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, HA

SUBJECT: HAITIAN CONCERN OVER NAVASSA ISLAND.

SUMMARY: HAITI IS WORRIED ABOUT THE LOS IMPLICATIONS OF CONTINUED US SOVEREIGNTY OVER NAVASSA ISLAND, AND WILL PROBABLY APPROACH THE DEPARTMENT ON THIS MATTER FOLLOWING THE CARACAS CONFERENCE. HAITI WILL NOT MAKE AN ISSUE OF THIS MATTER AT THE CONFERENCE, AND GENERALLY SUPPORTS THE US LOS POSITIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING UP AN EARLIER USDEL MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE HAITIAN LOS DELEGATION, USDELOFF (RANDOLPH) LUNCHEDED WITH SERGE CHARLES (MINISTER COUNSELOR OF HAITIAN UN DELEGATION) JULY 30. AT LATTER'S REQUEST, USDELOFF GAVE CHARLES COPIES
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OF QUOTE SUMMARY OF 1972 OIL AND GAS STATISTICS FOR ONSHORE

AND OFFSHORE AREAS OF 151 COUNTRIES UNQUOTE AND A HYDROGRAPHIC CHART OF THE AREA OF HAITI. CHARLES SAID THE GOH HAD LONG CLAIMED NAVASSA ISLAND AND IS NOW THINKING ABOUT USING IT AS ONE OF THE QUOTE BASES UNQUOTE FOR A REVIVED HAITIAN FISHING INDUSTRY. HE STATED THAT THE GOH HAS PLANS TO PURCHASE THREE FISHING VESSELS, AND THAT THE GOH IS BEING QUOTE ADVISED UNQUOTE IN ITS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE HAITIAN FISHING INDUSTRY BY THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT. CHARLES SAID THAT GOH PLANNING ENVISIONS PORT-AU-PRINCE AS THE CENTER OF THE FISHING INDUSTRY, WITH QUOTE BASES UNQUOTE AT LA TORTUE, CAP ST. NICHOLAS AND POSSIBLY JEREMIE. CHARLES ASKED IF THE US MIGHT BE WILLING TO YIELD NAVASSA TO HAITI OR AT LEAST ALLOW IT TO BE USED AS A BASE FOR HAITIAN FISHERMEN, NOTING THAT IF NAVASSA AS A US POSSESSION OBTAINS A BROADER TERRITORIAL SEA, AND AN ECONOMIC RESOURCE ZONE AS A RESULT OF THE LOS CONFERENCE, HAITIAN INTERESTS WOULD BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED.

2. USDELOFF RESPONDED THAT USG CONSIDERS NAVASSA ISLAND A US POSSESSION AND THAT THE US COAST GUARD HAS LONG MAINTAINED AN UNATTENDED LIGHTHOUSE ON THE ISLAND, WHICH BENEFITS HAITIAN AS WELL AS US AND OTHER MARINERS. DELOFF NOTED THAT A NUMBER OF SIMILAR TERRITORIAL PROBLEMS EXIST AROUND THE WORLD, AND THAT THE US BELIEVES THAT THESE CAN AND SHOULD BE SETTLED PEACEABLY AND BILATERALLY BUT OUTSIDE THE LOS ARENA. CHARLES AGREED, HASTENING TO ADD THAT HAITI DOES NOT INTEND TO MAKE AN ISSUE OVER NAVASSA AT THE LOS CONFERENCE BUT SIMPLY WANTS TO VOICE ITS CONCERNS PRIVATELY TO THE US. DELOFF SUGGESTED THAT AFTER THE CONFERENCE ENDED THE HAITIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON MIGHT INFORMALLY EXPLORE THE MATTER WITH THE DEPARTMENT. CHARLES AGREED TO THIS, AND INDICATED THAT HE HIMSELF MIGHT WELL DO THE EXPLORING.

3. CHARLES REITERATED HIS GOVERNMENT'S GENERAL SUPPORT FOR US LOS POSITIONS. HE SAID THAT WITHIN THE LATIN AMERICAN GROUP HAITI IS A MODERATE, AND THAT IN COMMITTEE I HE, CHARLES, IS FIGHTING AGAINST THE SEABEDS AUTHORITY BEING THE SOLE EXPLOITER OF THE SEABEDS AND THAT HE FAVORS A LICENSING SYSTEM.

4. CHARLES SAID HAITI HAS NO OUTSTANDING LOS PROBLEMS WITH EITHER JAMAICA OR THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, AND THAT THE GOH
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IS CONFIDENT THAT ANY WHICH MIGHT ARISE COULD BE SETTLED PEACEFULLY THROUGH NEGOTIATION.

5. CHARLES SAID HE WOULD KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE US DELEGATION, AND SAID HIS DELEGATION WANTED TO BE HELPFUL TO THE US.
STEVENSON

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Message Attributes

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